



News Release

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For Immediate Release

GOVERNOR DECLARES LAKE TAHOE OPEN AND SAFE FOR VISITORS

(NORTH LAKE TAHOE, California/Nevada) – In a news conference yesterday in South Lake Tahoe, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger praised and recognized the significant headway made by firefighters to contain the Angora Fire, which started last Sunday southwest of South Lake Tahoe, and assured visitors that it was safe to visit.

“Right now it is safe for people to come here,” Governor Schwarzenegger said. “I hope the people and families will enjoy their weekend here, because this is one of the most beautiful areas in the entire world.”

And, visitors have been responding. In North Lake Tahoe yesterday and today, clear and sunny skies dominated the horizon and travelers were out rafting, hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, horseback riding and sailing.

The Fourth of July holiday is a peak period in North Lake Tahoe, one that traditionally brings hundreds of tourists to the area. According to Tourism Director Andy

Chapman, of the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, North Lake Tahoe businesses are moving forward with scheduled celebrations and fireworks. He anticipates that this year's Fourth will be no different in terms of numbers of visitors. Many regional businesses are in agreement.

"It's business as usual," owner Alex Mourelatos, of Mourelatos Lakeshore Resort in Tahoe Vista, California, said. "We only have four rooms left for the July 3 through 5 period. We're looking forward to a fantastic Fourth of July week."

"Our reservations are on par with Fourth of July holidays from prior years," owner Graham Rock, of Chamber's Landing Bar and Grill on the West Shore, said.

At this time only one road closure remains in effect (Highway 89 on the West Shore) due to the Angora Fire. Highway 89 is closed from the junction of Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe to Emerald Bay. All other major interstates and highways, including Interstate 80 (through Truckee), Highway 89 (to Tahoe City), Highway 267 (to Kings Beach), Highway 431 (to Incline Village), Highway 50 and Highway 207 (from Highway 395) and Highway 50 and Highway 88 to and from South Lake Tahoe are open.

According to U.S. Forest Service officials, the Angora Fire has burned more than 250 structures and 3,100 acres, and is 55 percent contained with total containment predicted for Tuesday. Nearly 2,000 firefighters have assisted in controlling the blaze.

For current road conditions, click to the California Department of Transportation's website at www.dot.ca.gov.

North Lake Tahoe is a 45-minute drive from the Reno Tahoe International Airport, two hours from Sacramento International Airport and just over three hours from San Francisco International Airport. For lodging reservations, recreation and event details, call

North Lake Tahoe at 1-877-949-3296 or visit www.GoTahoeNorth.com. Visitor information centers are located at 380 North Lake Boulevard in Tahoe City and 969 Tahoe Boulevard in Incline Village. The North Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureaus, Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau and the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, work together to promote North Lake Tahoe as a premier, year-round destination.

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